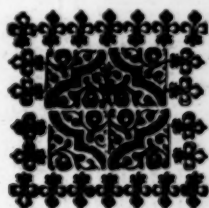


*1712*  
THE  
PRINCIPALL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERALL  
ASSEMBLY,

*Conveened at*  
EDINBURGH,  
Upon the first Wednesday of *June*, being  
the third of that Moneth, in the year  
1646.

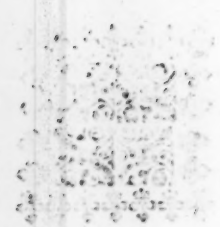
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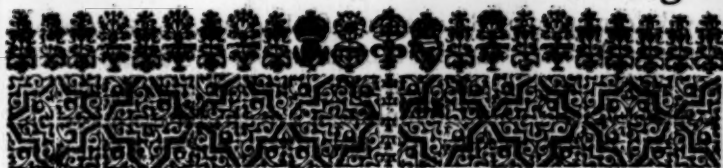
EDINBURGH:  
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings  
most Excellent Majestie.  
1646.

THE  
PRINCIPALS  
OF  
GENERAL  
ASSURANCE

EDINBURGH  
Printed by W. Mitchell, of Glasgow, being  
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series of the Edinburgh Association.



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most Excellent Majesty, at the Edinburgh Association.



THE  
GENERALL  
ASSEMBLY,

M E T

At Edinburgh Junii 3. 1646.

*Mr. Robert Blair Moderator.*

Edinb. 4. Junii 1646.

Sess. I I.

*The Kings Letter to the Assembly, presented by  
M. Robert Douglas Minister at  
Edinburgh.*

*Charles R.*



Ight trusty and welbeloved, We greet you well. Having lately written to Our Houses of Parliament at Westminster, and the Commissioners from Our Kingdom of Scotland at London, and likewise to the Committees of Estates of that Our Kingdom, Shewing Our great sense and grief for the sad effects have flowed from the unhappy differences betwixt Us and

Our Subjects, with Our reall resolutions to comply with the desires of Our Parliaments of both Kingdoms, and those entrusted by them for settling of Trueth and Peace in all Our Dominions: And now being informed of your meeting, We have thought fit hereby (since We could not conveniently send a Commissioner) to give you the same assurances; And withall, that it shall be Our constant endeavour to maintain Religion there, as it is established, in Doctrine, Worship, and Church-Government, and leave no good means unassayed for settling an universall Peace in that Our native and ancient Kingdom; with

2. *The Generall Assembly, 1646.*

the Reformation of Religion, and settling Peace in *England* and *Ireland*: And after the return of an answer to Our late Message to Our Houses of Parliament heer, We shall more particularly acquaint you, or your Commissioners, with Our further resolutions. In the mean time, We seriously recommend Our selves and the distracted condition of Our Kingdoms, to your most earnest Prayers to God in Our behalf, expecting from you faithfulness in your severall Charges and Callings, with that Loyaltie and obedience which becometh the Ministers of the Gospel. We bid you very heartily farewell, from *New-castle* the 28. of May 1646.

DIRECT.

For Our right trustie and welbeloved, The  
Moderatour, and other Members of the  
Generall Assembly of the Kirk of Our  
Kingdom of *Scotland*.

6. Junii 1646. Antemeridiem.  
Sess. III.

*Act concerning the Registers and Acts of  
Provinciall Assemblies.*



He Assembly recommends to Provinciall Assemblies, that hereafter they cause read all their Acts, before the dissolving of every Assembly; And that their Registers be written formally, and in a good hand writing, with the severall Leases or Pages thereof marked by ciphers according to their number.

11. Junii 1646. Antemeridiem.  
Sess. VII.

*Act concerning the publike satisfaction of Mar-  
ried persons, for Fornication committed before Marriage.*

He Generall Assembly understanding that in many places the publike scandals of Fornication committed before Marriage, are not taken notice of and removed by publike confession according to the order of this Kirk; There-  
fore



fore for remedie thereof do Ordain, That all Married persons under publike scandall of Fornication, committed before their Marriage ( although the scandal thereof hath not appeared before the Marriage ) shall satisfie publicly for that sin committed before their Marriage, their being in the estate of Marriage notwithstanding, And that in the same maner as they should have done if they were not Married.

13. Junii 1646. *Antemeridien*.  
Sess. X.

*Ordinance for Excommunication of the  
Earle of Seaforth.*

**T**He Generall Assembly having taken to their serious consideration, that perfidious Band made and contrived lately in the North, under the name of *An humble Remonstrance*, against our Nationall Covenant, and the League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms; Which tendeth to the making of division and fomenting of Jealousies within this and between both Kingdoms, to the prolonging of these unnaturall Warrs, to the impeding of the intended Uniformity in Religion, and to the subversion of all the happie ends of our covenants: And finding that *George Earle of Seaforth* hes not only most perfidiously himself subscribed the said wicked Band, contrary to his solemne Oaths in the Covenants aforesaid, and most arrogantly owned the same under his owne hand writing in his letters to the Committee of Estates, and to the Commissioners of the preceding Assemblie; But also hes seduced and threatned others to subscribe that divisive Band, and to joyne with him in prosecution of his treacherous and wicked designs, therein masked with the pretences of Religion and libertie; boasting also the pursuance of that his Remonstrance against all deadly the opposers therof, whether King or Parliament. And having also considered another wicked and treacherous Band of Union which the said Earle formerly entred into with that excommunicate Rebell *James Grahame*, after the sentence of forfeiture, and the dreadfull sentence of excommunication were pronounced against him, Oblieging himself therein under solemne Oaths to joyne with that forfaulted Rebell against this Kirk and Kingdome, and to oppose all their publicke resolutions for pursuance of the happie ends of our said Covenants. All which, with his vile reproachfull aspersions and most false calumnies against this Kirk and State, and their publike

like and lawfull endeavours and resolutions, with his other wicked and perfidious practises at length discovered in the Proclamation of the Committee of Estates, and the Declaration of the Commission of the Assembly against the said perfidious Band and Remonstrance, being gravely pondered & considered; Together with his base treachery to the Estates, being intrusted by them with ample Commission, and encouraged and enabled for discharging thereof, with Mony Ammunition and Arms in a good measure: Notwithstanding whereof contrary to that great trust reposed in him, It is notor that not only he did not joyne with the Forces raised for the defence of this Kingdome, But rather on the contrary, actually joyning himself and his Forces with that excommunicate Rebel *James Grahame*, and these unnatural bloody Rebels his followers, did beleager *Jnnernesse*, a Towne Garrisoned by the Estates for the Defence of that part of the Country. And the Assembly having also found that fair means have been used for reclaiming of the said Earle from that wicked and perfidious course, by publike Declarations and Proclamations, and particular Letters sent to himself from those that had power in that behalf, And that notwithstanding thereof and of Summonds direct against him to answer to the promises, often called, he doth not appear, but still remains obstinate in his wicked courses; And after mature deliberation having found his frequent fearfull and grosse perjuries, his perfidious and wicked conspiracies by Band and Oath, with the publike Enemies of this Kirk and Kingdom, and his other treacherous and wicked practises so contemptuously and pertinaciously persisted into, To be haynous offences against God, and high contempt of all Ecclesiastical and Civil authority. Therefore the Assembly moved with the Zeal of God, do without a contrary voice Decerne and Ordain the said *George Earle of Seaforth* to be summarly excommunicate, and declared to be one whom Christ commandeth to be holden by all and every one of the Faithfull as an Ethnik and Publicane, and appoints the sentence of excommunication to be pronounced by Master *Robert Blair* Moderator in the east Kirk of this Citie, upon the next Lords day, being the 14. of this Moneth; And that thereafter publike intimation be made thereof upon a Sabbath day before noone in all the Kirks of this Kingdom so soon as advertisement shall come unto them.

### *Enormities*

*Enormities and Corruptions observed to be in the  
Ministry, with the Remedies thereof.*

ENORMITIES.



He first and main sin, reaching both to our personall carriage and callings, we judge to be, Not studying how to keep Communion and Fellowship with God in Christ, but walking in a naturall way, without imploying of Christ, or drawing vertue from him, to inable us unto sanctification, and Preaching in spirit and power.

In our Lives.

1. **M**uch fruitlesse conversing in companie, and complying with the sins of all sorts, not behaving our selves as becomes the men of God.
2. Great worldlinesse is to be found amongst us, minding and speaking most about things of this life, being busied about many things, but forgetting the main.
3. Slighting of Gods worship in their families, and therefore no cordiall urging of it upon others: yea, altogether a wanting of it in some, if it be credible.
4. Want of gravity in carriage and apparell, dissolutenesse in haire, and shaking about the knees, lightnesse in the apparell of their wives and children.
5. Tippling and bearing companie in untimous drinking in Tavernes and Ale-houses, or any where else, whereby the Ministerie is made vile and contemptible.
6. Discountenancing of the godly; speaking ill of them, because of some that are unanswerable to their profession.
7. The Sabbath not sanctified after Sermons, which maketh people think that the Sabbath is ended with the Sermon.
8. There are also to be found amongst us, who use small and minced oaths.
9. Some so great strangers to Scripture, that except in their publike Ministerie, though they read many things, yet they are little conversant in the Scripture, and in meditation thereof: A dutie incumbent to all the people of God.

In our Callings.

1. **C**orrupt entry into the Ministerie in former times, and following the course of defection, though forsaken, yet never seriously repented: as also present entring into the Ministry, as to a way of living in the world, and not as to a spirituall calling.

2. Helping in, and holding in of insufficient and suspected men, who favour the things of this life, and keeping the door straiter on them whom God hath sealed, then upon these who have lesse evidence of the power of grace and holinesse.

3. Partiality in favouring, and speaking for the scandalous, whether Ministers or other persons, teaching them how to shift and delay censures.

4. Silence in the publike cause, not labouring to cure the disaffection of people, not urging them to constancie and patience in bearing of publike burdens, nor to forwardnesse in the publike Cause; whereby Malignants are multiplied: yea some are so grosse herein, that even in publike Fasts little or nothing is to be heard from them sounding this way.

5. Some account it a point of wisdom to speak ambiguously: some incline to justifie the wicked cause, uttering words which favour of disaffection: and all their complaining of the times, is in such a way as may steal the hearts of people from liking of good Instruments in this work, and consequently from Gods Cause: yea, some reading publike Orders, are ready to speak against them in their private conference.

6. Idlenesse, either in seldome Preaching, as once on the Lords day, or in preparation for publike duties, not being given to reading and meditation: others have but fits of paines, not like other Tradesmen continually at their work.

7. Want of zeal, and love to the conversion of souls, not being weightied with the want of successe in reclaiming of sinners, nor learching in themselves the cause of not profiting, preaching *ex officio*, not *ex conscientia officii*.

8. Self-seeking in preaching, and a venting rather of their wit and skill, then a shewing forth of the wisdom and power of God.

9. Lifelesnesse in preaching, not studying to be furnished by Christ with power; and so the ordinance of God reacheth not to the conscience: and heereto belongeth the not applying of the doctrine unto the auditory and times.

10. The indiscreet curing of the indiscretion of pious people and Ministers, whereby godlinesse hath gotten a deep wound, and profanitie hath lifted up the head, contrary to that wise and gracious order set forth in the Generall Assembly holden at *Edinburgh*, 1641.

11. Little care to furnish our Armie, either abroad or at home with Ministers; One of our grievous sins, and causes of our calamity.

12. Last, it is to be feared that Ministers in secret are negligent to wrestle in Prayer, for a blessing to be poured out upon their labours, contenting themselves with their publike performances.

REMEDIES.



REMEDIES.

1. **F**irst, That Presbyteries make great conscience to have all vacant places within their severall bounds filled with godly and able men, where ever they be to be found: and that under pretence of being a helper, or second to another, none be taken in; but such as are able for the same charge.

2. Whereas it is known, that private tryall in Presbyteries are for the most part perfunctorious, the Brethren are hereby exhorted to be more serious, and faithfull heerein, as they will be answerable to Christ, the Chief Shepherd: and in a way previous thereto, that Brethren be free, in loving admonition one of another secretly, from time to time; and that whosoever keeps not the Presbyterie or Synod, after grave admonitions may come under further censures.

3. That accuracie be used at visitation of Kirks, and that the Elders one by one (the rest being removed) be called in, and examined upon oath upon the Ministers behaviour in his calling and conversation.

4. That course be taken to divide Congregations in parts, and by the help not only of Elders in their severall parts, but of neighbors also, the evils, and neglects of persons and families, may be found out and remedied.

5. That every Minister be humbled for his former failings, and make his peace with God, that the more effectually he may preach repentance, and may stand in the gap, to turne away the Lords wrath: runing between the Porch and the Altar, sighing and crying for all the abominations of the land.

6. Speciall care would be had, that all Ministers have their conversation in heaven, mainly minding the things of God, and exercising faith for drawing life out of Jesus Christ the fountain of life, arming themselves thereby with power against the contagion and wickednesse of the world.

7. Care would be had of godly conference in Presbyteries, even in time of their refreshment, and the Moderator is to look to it, that good matter be furnished thereto.

8. It is also very necessary for every Minister that would be fruitfull in the work of the Lord, to bring home the Word of God to his own heart and conscience, by Prayer and Meditation, both before and after the publike ordinance.

9. Use would be made of the roll of the Parish, not onely for examination, but also for considering the severall conditions and dispositions of the people, that accordingly they may be admonished, and particularly prayed for by the Ministers in secret.

10. It is very expedient that Ministers have more communion among themselves for their mutuall stirring up, and



## 8 *The Generall Assembly, 1646.*

strengthening of their hands in the Lords work, and rectifying of these who are not incorrigible.

11. That Ministers in all sorts of companie labour to bee fruitfull, as the Salt of the earth, seasoning them they meet with, not only forbearing to drink healths ( Satans snare, leading to excesse ) but reproving it in others.

12. All Ministers would be carefull to cherish the smoaking flax of weak beginnings in the wayes of God, and ought courageously to oppose all mockers and revilers of the godly.

13. As at all times, so specially now when the Lord is calling us all to an account, it becomes the Ministers of Christ, with all diligence and faithfulness, to improve their Ministerie to the utmost, to be instant in season and out of season, yea, even frugally to imploy their time in private, in reading of, and meditating on Scripture, that the word of God may dwell plentifully in them.

14. That the providing the Armies with Ministers be preferred to any congregation, and these who are appointed to attend the same, and are deficient, be without delay severelie censured according to the Act of the Generall Assembly; And that all Ministers not only in publike, pray for our Armies, specially these that are to encounter with the bloody enemy within the land, but also continually bear them up before the Lord, that their lives being reformed, their hearts and hands may be strengthened, and their undertaking at last blessed of G O D with successe.

15. That beside all other scandals, silence or ambiguous speaking in the publike cause, much more detracting and disaffected speeches be seasonable censured: and to this effect, all honest hearted Brethren would firmlie unite themselves in the Lord, the younger honouring the elder, and the elder not despising the younger.

16. And finally, both for the corruption of the Ministerie and remedies thereof, we refer the brethren to the Act of the Generall Assemblie at *Edinburgh*, 1596. revived in the late Assemblie at *Glasgow*, 1638. to bee found in the printed Act concerning the same.

*The Generall Assembly Ordains the Enormities abovespecified to be tryed and restrained, and that the Remedies thereof for that purpose be seriously observed and practised: Recommending especially to Presbyteries and Provinciall Assemblies, that use be made of the same in visitation of Kirks and tryall of Presbyteries.*

*Approbation*

*Approbation of the proceedings of the preceding Assembly.*

**T**He Generall Assembly having heard the report of the Committee appointed to consider and examine the proceedings of the Commissioners of the late Generall Assembly holden at *Edinburgh* in the year 1646. And after serious consideration thereof, finding that the whole Acts, Proceedings, and Conclusions of the said Commissioners, contained in the Register subscribed by M. *Andrew Ker* their Clerk, and by M. *Robert Ramsay* Moderator to the said Committee, do declare much Wisdom, Diligence, Vigilancie, and commendable Zeal, And that the said Commissioners have orderly and formally proceeded in every thing, according to their Commission: Do therefore ratifie and approve the said whole Acts, Proceedings, and Conclusions of the Commissioners of the said Assembly.

15. Junii 1646. Postmeridien.  
Sess. XI.

*Act for joyning of the Presbyteries in Orkney and Zetland to the Provincial of Cathnes.*

**T**He Generall Assembly, considering that the Presbyterie of *Kirkwall* in *Orkney* and the Presbyterie of *Sealloway* in *Zetland* have never met in any Provincial Assembly, wherethrough great abuses and disorders are there committed, Therefore the Assembly hereby joyns the said two Presbyteries to the Provincial of *Cathnes* and *Sutherland*; And Appoints all the Ministers and Elders of the said Presbyteries hereafter, to meet at the said Provincial Assembly, and to have place to reason and vote therein as members of the said Provincial. And sikklike ordains the saids two Presbyteries to be of subordinate Jurisdiction to the said Provincial Assembly, Declaring hereby, that the said Provincial shall consist of the Presbyteries of *Cathnes*, *Sutherland*, *Orkney*, and *Zetland* in all time coming. And appoints them to meet onely once in the year, in respect of their great distance and interjection of seas. And that the first meeting be at *Thurso* in *Cathnes* upon the third Tueday of August next, and thereafter as shall be appointed by the said Provincial Assembly.

17. Junii 1646. Postmeridiem.

Sess. XIII.

*Act concerning Expectants Preaching  
in publike.*

**THE** He Generall Assembly discharges any person to preach in publike under the name and notion of an Expectant, or under any other pretence whatsoever, except such as shall be tryed and found qualified according to the Acts of the Generall Assembly, Recommending to Presbyteries and Provincials to take speciall notice thereof, and to censure the transgressors accordingly.

*Act for censuring the compliers with the publike  
enemies of this Kirk and Kingdom.*

**THE** He Generall Assembly taking to their serious consideration the great and scandalous provocation and grievous defection from the publike Cause, which some have beene guiltie of, by complying with the Rebels the publike enemies of this Kirk and Kingdom: And judging it a dutie incumbent to them to bring such notorious offenders to publike satisfaction, that the wrath of God may be averted and the publike scandall removed, Do therefore Require, Decern, and Ordain, that such as after lawfull tryall shall be found to have been in actuall Rebellion and to have carried charge with the Rebels, To have accepted Commissions for raising Horse or Foot unto them, To have been seducers of others to joyn in that Rebellion, To be the Penners or contrivers of *James Grahams* Proclamation for indicting a pretended Parliament, or of any other his Proclamations or Declarations, To have beene prime Instruments in causing publish the said Proclamations and Declarations, That all and every one of such offenders shall humbly acknowledge their offence upon their knees, first before the Presbyterie, and thereafter before the Congregation upon a Sabbath, in some place before the Pulpit, And in the mean time that they be suspended from the Lords Supper: And in case they do not satisfie in manner foresaid, that they be processed with Excommunication: And likewise Ordains, that such as shall be found to have procured Protections from the Rebels, To have execute their orders, To have invited them to their houses, To have given them intelligence, To have drank *James Grahams* health,

or

or to be guilty of any other such grosse degrees of compli-  
ance, shall acknowledge their offences publikely before the Congrega-  
tion, and be suspended from the Communion ay and while they  
doe the same. And further Decernes and Ordains, that all per-  
sons in any Ecclesiastick office guilty of any degrees of compli-  
ance before mentioned, shall be suspended from their office and all  
exercise thereof, for such time as the quality of the offence and  
condition of the offenders shall be found to deserve; And the  
Assembly hereby declares, that Presbyteries have a latitude and  
liberty to agree the censures abovespecified, according to the  
degrees and circumstances of the offences; And gives in like man-  
ner the same latitude and liberty to the Commissioners of this  
Assembly for publike affairs, who have also power to try and  
censure the offenders in manner above exprest, and to take ac-  
count of the diligence of Presbyteries thereintill.

*Act concerning James Grahams Proclamation.*

¶ The Generall Assembly having considered a copie of a  
Proclamation published by order of that excommu-  
nicat Traitor *James Graham*, for indicting of a preten-  
ded Parliament, and finding the same to be full of blas-  
phemies against the solemn League and Covenant of the three  
Kingdoms, and of vile aspersions of Treason, Rebellion, and  
Sedition, most falsly and impudently imputed to the Estates, and  
most faithfull and loyall Subjects of this Kingdome: Doe  
therefore declare, That such as have bin prime Instruments of the  
publishing of that or the like Proclamation and Declaration, de-  
serve the highest censures of the Kirk, unlesse they make humble  
confession of their offence publikely, in such manner as is pre-  
scribed by this Assembly; And humbly Recommends to the Com-  
mittee of Estates to take some course for their exemplary civill  
punishment, and that some publike note of ignominie be put up-  
on that Proclamation as their Honors shall think meet.

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18. Junii 1646. Antemeridie.  
Sess. Ult.


*Act against loosing of Ships and Barks upon  
the Lords Day.*

¶ The Generall Assembly understanding how much the  
Lords day is profaned by Skippers and other Seafaring  
men, Do therefore discharge and inhibite all Skippers and Sai-  
lers to begin any voyage on the Lords day, or to loose any Ships  
D Barks



Barks or Boats out of Harbery or Road upon that day, And who shall doe in the contrary hereof, shall be censured as profaners of the Sabbath: Recommending to Presbyteries and others whom it may concerne to see both the Acts of Assembly and Parliament made for censuring and punishing profanation of the Lords day, to be put in execution against them.

*Act anent Children sent without the Kingdom.*

 Hereas divers Children have been sent without the Kingdom to be bred abroad, and have been or in time coming may be exposed to the temptations of seducers, and drawn away from the Trueth established and professed within this Church to error of Poperie, or other Sects and Heresies: Therefore the Assembly Ordains, that the Parents or Friends of Children and Minors, shall before they send them without the Kingdom, first acquaint the Presbytery where they reside, that they may have their Testimoniall directed to the Presbytery or Classe within the Kingdom of *France*, or *England*, or *Ireland*, and at the time of these Childrens return from any of the saids Kingdoms, to report ane Testimoniall from the Presbytery or Synode where they lived without the Kingdom of their breeding there, and to shew the same to the Presbytery within the Kingdom who gave them a Testimoniall at their way going. Likeas the Assembly Ordains all Presbyteries to try if any Children have been sent to Popish Schooles or Colledges without the Kingdom; And if any be found, that their names be given to the Presbytery or Commissioners of the Assembly, that the same may be presented to the Honourable Lords of Secret Councell, or Committee of Estates, that their Lordships may be humbly desired by their authority to recall them, that after return to this Kingdom a course may be taken, according to the former Ordinances of Generall Assemblies, for their breeding in the true Religion.

*Overtures presented to the Assembly.*

I. **T**Hat correspondence be kept among Presbyteries constantly by letter without prejudice of personall correspondence when need requires, whereby one Presbyterie may understand what many are doing, and they may be mutually assisting each to other.

II. That for the better breeding of young men to the Ministerie who are not able to furnish themselves in charges to attend in the Universities, that the Presbyteries where they reside appoint some to direct their studies.

III. That



*The Generall Assembly, 1646.* 13

III. That it be recommended to all the Universities to condescend upon the best Overtures for the most profitable teaching of Grammar and Phylolophy, and as they may meet at the Commission of the Generall Assembly to make the matter ripe for the next Assembly.

*The Assembly approves these Overtures, and recommends accordingly.*

IV. That to the intent the knowlege of God in Christ may be spread through the Highlands and Islands ( for in lack whereof the land hath smarted in the late troubles ) these courses be taken: 1. Let an order be procured, that all Gentlemen who are able, at least send their eldest sons to be bred in the Inland. 2. That a Ministerie be planted amongst them, and for that effect that Ministers and expectants who can speak the Irish language be sent to imploy their talents in these parts, and that the Kirks there be provided as other Kirks in this Kingdome. 3. That Scots Schools be erected in all Parishes there, according to the Act of Parliament, where conveniently they can be had. 4. That Ministers and ruling Elders that have the Irish language be appointed to visit these parts.

*The Assembly approves this Overture, and recommends this purpose to further consideration, that more Overtures may be prepared thereanent against the next Assembly.*

V. That for keeping the Universities pure, and provoking the Professors of Divinitie to greater diligence, each Professor in the Universities of this Church and Kingdom, bring with him or send with the Commissioner who comes to the General Assembly, ane perfit and well written copie of his Dictates, to be reviled by the Generall Assembly, or such as they shall appoint for that work ilk year.

*The Assembly continues the determination of a constant and perpetuall order herein untill the next Assembly, but in the mean time desires the professors of Divinity to present to the next Assembly their Dictates of Divinity whereof the professors present are to give intimation to the professors absent.*

VI. The great burdens Intrants undergoes when they enter the Ministry, which holds many of them long at under, would crave the Assemblies judgement and authority, that Ministers Manfes and Stipends may be all made free to the Intrant.

*The Assembly refers and recommends to the Commissioners for publike affairs to seek redresse in this matter from the Honorable Estates of Parliament, and to consider of some fitting Overtures to be presented to their Honours for that effect.*

*Renovation of the Commission for the publike affairs of the Kirk.*

**T**He Generall Assembly taking to their consideration that in respect the great work of Uniformity in Religion in all his Majesties Dominions is not yet perfected, (though by the Lords blessing there is a good progresse made in the same) there is a necessity of renewing the Commissions granted formerly for prosecuting and perfecting that great work; Doe therefore renew the power and Commission granted for the publike affairs of the Kirk by the Generall Assemblies held in *S. Andrews* in the year 1642. and in *Edinburgh* 1643. 1644. and 1645. unto the persons following, *viz.* Masters *Alexander Henderson*, *Robert Douglas*, *William Colvil*, *William Bennet*, *George Gillespie*, *John Oswald*, *John Adamson*, *William Dalgleish*, *David Calderwood*, *James Fleeming*, *Robert Ker*, *John Dalycell*, *James Wright*, *John Knox*, *Adam Penman*, *Robert Lich-toun*, *Alexander Dickeson*, *Patrick Fleeming*, *John Hay*, *Richard Dickeson*, *Thomas Vasse*, *David Drummond*, *Alexander Somervill*, *Robert Eliot*, *Robert Blair*, *James Bruce*, *Robert Traile*, *Samuel Ruherfurd*, *Alexander Colvill*, *Walter Greg*, *Alexander Balfour*, *George Thomson*, *John Moncreiff*, *John Smith*, *Patrick Gillespie*, *John Duncan*, *James Sibbald*, *Alexander Casse*, *John Hume*, *Alexander Kinner*, *Walter Swintoun*, *Robert Knox*, *William Penman*, *James Guthrie*, *Thomas Donaldson*, *William Jameson*, *Thomas Wilkie*, *John Knox*, *Robert Murray*, *John Freebairn*, *Robert Wright*, *David Auchterlonie*, *William Maior*, *Samuel Aufstein*, *John Leir-mont*, *Andrew Lauder*, *James Irving*, *Alexander Turnbull*, *James Bonar*, *William Adair*, *John Neve*, *Patrick Colvil*, *Matthew Birs-bane*, *John Hamiltoun*, *Allan Ferguson*, *Robert Ramsay*, *Geo. Young*, *David Dickson*, *Robert Bailie*, *James Nasmith*, *John Lindsay*, *John Weir*, *Evan Cameron*, *James Affleck*, *John Robison*, *Andrew Eliot*, *Silvester Lambie*, *Laurence Skinner*, *William Rate*, *David Campbell*, *Andrew Cant*, *William Douglas*, *David Lindsay*, *Gilbert Anderson*, *Alexander Garrioch*, *William Jaffray*, *Thomas Law*, *William Campbell*, *Walter Stewart* Ministers; And *Archibald Marquesse of Argyle*, *John Earle of Crawford-Lindsay*, *William Earle Marshall*, *William Earle of Glencairn*, *John Earle of Cassils*, *Charles Earle of Dumfermling*, *James Earle of Tullibardine*, *Francis Earle of Bacleugh*, *John Earle of Lauderdale*, *William Earle of Lothian*, *William Earle of Lanerk*, *Archibald Lord Angus*, *John Lord Balmerino*, *Robert Lord Burleigh*, *John Master of Yester*, *Sir Patrick Hepburn of Waughtoun*, *Sir John Hope of Craighall*, *Sir Archibald Johnston of Wariston*, *Sir David Hume*

Hume of Wedderburn, Sir Robert Fynes of that ilk, Sir William Bailly of Lamington, Sir John Muncresse of that ilk, James Macdougall of Garthland, Patrick Cockburn of Clarkington, Sir Hugh Campbel of Cesnock, Sir William Cunningham of Cunninghamhead, John Hume of Blackader, Sir James Dundas of Arniston, Alex. Forbes Tutor of Pitligo, M. Geo. VVinrham of Libberton, David VVeemes of Fingask, M. Francis Hay of Balhousie, Alex. Brodie of that ilk, M. Alex. Colvil of Blair, Geo. Dundas of Dudistoun, VVilliam Moor of Glanderston, Sir James Nicolson of Colbrandspaith, John Edgar of Wedderlie, VVilliam Hume of Lenthill, James Ruchhead, Laurence Henderson, and James Stuart Bailies of Edinburgh, George Porterfield Provest of Glasgow, VVil. Hume there, Ro. Arnot Provest of Perth, John Semple Provest of Dumbarton, John Kenmedie Provest of Air, M. David VVeemes, Geo. Gardine, John Johnstoun, Tho. Paterson, Tho. VVhite, John Sleigh Elders. Giving unto them full power and Commission To do all and every thing for prosecuting, advancing, perfecting, and bringing the said work of Uniformity in Religion in all His Majesties Dominions to a happy conclusion, conform to the former Commissions granted by preceding Assemblies thereanent. And to that effect appoints them, or any seventeen of them, whereof thirteen shall be Ministers, To meet at Edinburgh the 19 of this Moneth, and thereafter upon the second Wednesdaies of August, November, Februar, and May next to come, and upon any other day, and in any other place they shall think meet. And further, renews to the persons before named, the power contrainted in the Act of the said Assembly 1643. Intituled, *A reference to the Commission anent the persons designed to repair to the Kingdom of England*; As also the power contained in two severall Acts of the said Assembly 1644. Sess. 6. made *against secret disaffecteds of the Covenant*, and *for sending Ministers to the Armie*, with full power to them to treat and determine in the matters aforesaid, and in all other matters referred unto them by this Assembly, as fully and freely as if the same were here particularly expressed, and with as ample power as any Commission of former Generall Assemblies hath had, or been in use of before; They being alwayes for their whole proceedings comptable to, and censurable by the next Generall Assembly.

*Renovation of the Commission for prosecuting the Treaty for Uniformity in England.*



He Generall Assembly, Taking to their consideration that the Treatie of Uniformity in Religion in all His Majesties Dominions is not yet perfected, Therefore Renews the power and Commission granted by preceding Assemblies for prosecuting that Treatie, unto these

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persons

16 *The Generall Assembly, 1646.*

persons after named, viz. M. *Alexander Henderson*, M. *Robert Douglas*, M. *Samuel Rutherford*, M. *Robert Bailie*, M. *Geo Gillespie* Ministers; And *John Earle of Lauderdale*, *John Lord Balmerino*, and Sir *Archibald Johnston* of Wariston Elders; Authorizing them with full power to prosecute the said Treatie of Uniformity with the Honourable Houses of the Parliament of *England*, and the Reverend Assembly of Divines there, or any Committees appointed by them: And to do all and every thing which may advance, perfect, and bring that Treatie to an happy conclusion, conform to the former Commissions given there-  
anent.

The ASSEMBLIES ANSWER  
TO  
*The KINGS MAJESTIE.*

*May it please your Majestie,*



AVING received your Majesties Letter with thankfulness, we thought it our dutie to send some of our number to wait upon your Majestie, and present our humble desires more particularly then at this time could be expressed by writ; And we are confident your Majestie will interpret our freedom and plain dealing by them, to be a reall testimonie of our unfained affection, who have constantly laboured to approve our selves in all fidelity to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, and in all loyalty to your Majestie; And are resolved to walk still after the same rule in our severall stations and vocations, continuing our Prayers for you, that God may multiply all sorts of Mercies upon your Royall Person and Posterity, and more and more incline your heart to the speedie following of the Counsels of Trueth and Peace, and grant unto your Majestie a long and happy Reign, that we may live under you a peaceable and quiet life, in all godlinesse and honesty.

EDINBURGH,  
18 *Junii* 1646.

Subscribed in name of the  
Nationall Assembly of  
the Kirk of *Scotland* by  
the Moderator.

*The*



*The Assemblies Letter to the Right Honorable  
the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of  
England assembled at Westminster.*

RIGHT HONOURABLE,



He report of the great things which the Lord hath done for your Honours, hath gone forth into many Lands, and it becometh us least of any either to smother or extenuate the same; We desire to be enlarged in the admiration of the Power and Mercie of God the Author, and to diminish nothing of that praise that is due unto you as instruments. When the Lord set your Honours upon the Bench of Judgment, both the Kirk and Common wealth of *England* were afflicted with intestine and bosome evils, the cure whereof could not but be very difficult, because they were not only many, but for the most part Universal and deeply rooted, sheltred under the shadow of Custome and Law, and supported with all the wisdom and strength of the Malignant and Prelaticall partie; who rather chose to involve the Land in an unnaturall and bloody Warre, then to fail of their ambitious and treacherous designs, against Religion, the priviledges of Parliament, and the Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdom: Neither hath that miserable crew been wanting to their owne ends, but for many years together hath desperately pursued their resolutions in Arms; And was likely to have prevailed, if the Lord had not put himself in the breach, and furnished you with much Patience, Wisdom, Courage, and Constancy, in the midst of many difficulties and distresses; and at last with so glorious and triumphing a successe, that the Enemy hath fallen every where before you, and there is none left to appear against you. These things as they be the matter of our refreshment and of your glory, so doe they lay a strong obligation upon your Honours to walke humbly with your God, and to improve the power he hath put into your hands for the advancement of the Kingdom of his Son, and bringing forth of the head-Stone of his House. The slow progresse of the work of God hath alwayes been the matter of our sorrow, which is now increased by the multiplication of the spirits of error and delusion, that drowne many souls into perdition, and so strengthen themselves, that they shall afterward be laboured against with more pains then successe, if a speedy and effectuell remedie be not provided. And therefore as the servants of the living God, who not onely send up our supplications daily for you, but have hazard our selves in your defence, We do earnestly beseech your Honors in the bowels of Jesus Christ, to give unto him the glory that is due unto his Name, by a timous establishment



shing all his Ordinances in the full integritie and power thereof, according to the League and Covenant. As long as the Assembly of Divines was in debate, and an enemy in the fields, we conceived that these might be probable grounds of delay, which being now removed out of the way, we do promise to our selves from your Wisdom, Faithfulness, and Zeale, the persisting of that which was the main ground of our engagement, and a chief matter of consolation unto us in all our sad and heavy sufferings, from the hand of a most cruell Enemy. We know that there is a generation of men who retard the work of Uniformity, and foment Jealousies betwixt the Nations, studying if it were possible, to break our bands asunder; But we trust, that he that sits in the Heavens will Laugh, and that the Lord shall have them in derision, that he shall speak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure, and notwithstanding of all that they can do, set his King upon his holy hill of Sion, and make these Nations happy in the sweet fruits of Unity in Truth and Peace. The searcher of hearts knows that we desire to hold fast the band of our Covenant, as sacred and inviolable; being perswaded that the breach of so solemn a tie could not but hasten down upon our heads a curse and vengeance from the righteous Judge of the world, and involve these Kingdoms in sader calamities then they have yet seen; And we abhor to entertain any other thought of you: Nay we are confident that your Honours will seriously indeavour the prosecution of all these ends designed in the Covenant, and the bringing these Nations unto the neerest conjunction both in judgement and affection, especially in these things that concern Religion, which without all controversie, is the readiest and surest way of attaining and securing the Peace and Prosperity of both Kingdoms.

*Edinburgh 18 Junii 1646.*

Subscribed in name of the  
Generall Assembly by  
the Moderator.

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*The Assemblies Letter to the Right Honorable  
the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-  
Counsell of the City of London.*



Our late and seasonable testimony given to the Truth of the Gospel, and your affection to the Peace of the Kingdoms, manifested in your humble Remonstrance and Petition to the Honorable Houses of Parliament, hath so revived the remembrance of your former Faith and Zeal, and proclaimed you the worthy seed of so noble ancestors in that famous City, As we cannot but acknowledge with all thank-

thankfulnesse the grace of God bestowed on you, and stirre you up to take notice, how since you were precious in the Lords sight, you have been ever Honourable, The Lord hath loved you, given men for you, and people for your life: What an honour was it in the dayes of old, when the fire of the Lord was in *Zion*, and his furnace in your *Jerusalem* (even in *Queen Mariés* dayes) that there were found in you men that loved not their lives unto the death? What a glory in after times, when Satan had his Throne and Antichrist his Seat in the midst of you, that there were still found not a few that kept their Garments clean? But the greatest praise of the good hand of God upon you hath been in this, That amidst the many Mists of Errour and Heresie which have risen from the bottomlesse pit, to be-spot the face and darken the glory of the Church, (while the Bride is a making ready for the Lamb) you have held the Trueth, and most piously endeavoured the setting of Christ upon his Throne. We need not remember how zealous you have been in the Cause of God, nor how you have laid out your selves and estates in the maintenance thereof, nor how many acknowledgements of the same you have had from the Honourable Houses, nor how precious a remembrance will be had of you in after ages for your selling of all to buy the Pearl of price: We only at this time do admire, and in the inward of our hearts do blesse the Lord for your right and deep apprehensions of the great and important matters of Christ in his Royall Crown, and of the Kingdoms in their Union, while the Lord maketh offers to bring our Ship (so much afflicted and tossed with tempest) to the safe Harbour of Trueth and Peace. Right memorable is your Zeal against Sects and Sectaries; your care of Reformation, according to the word of God, and the example of the best Reformed Churches; your earnest endeavours and noble adventures, for preserving of the rights and priviledges of Parliament, and Liberties of the Kingdomes, Together with his Majesties just power and greatness, and your high profession, that it is not in the power of any humane authority to discharge or absolve you from adhering unto that our (so solemnely sworn) League and Covenant, or to enforce upon you any sense contrary to the letter of the same, Besides your other good services done unto the Lord and to us, in the strengthening of the hands of the reverend Assembly of Divines, and of our Commissioners in their asserting of the government of Christ (which the more it betried will be ever found the more precious Truth) and vindicating of the same from the usurpation of man, and contempt of the wicked. These all as they are so many testimonies of your Pietie, Loyaltie, and undaunted resolution to stand for Christ; So are they and shall ever be so many obligations upon us your Brethren, to esteeme highly of you in the Lord, to bear you on our breasts before him

night and day, and to contribute our best endeavours, and to improve all opportunities for your encouragement. And now we beseech you in the Lord, Honorable & welbeloved, go on in this your strength, and in the power of his might who hath honoured you to be faithfull, stand fast in that liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free; And in the pursuance of this truth, we are confident, as you have, so you will never cease to study the Peace and neerer conjunction of the Kingdoms, knowing that a three-fold cord is not easily broken. Now the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God even our Father, which hath loved and honoured you, and given you everlasting consolation, and good help through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

*Edinburgh 18 Junii 1646.*

Subscribed in name of the  
Generall Assembly by  
the Moderator.

*The Assemblies Letter to the right Reverend  
the Assembly of Divines in the Kirk of Eng-  
land assembled at Westminster.*

*Much Honoured and right Reverend,*



Mongst other fruits of this our precious liberty, after such dissipation by Sword and Pestilence, to meet again, we account it not the least, to have the opportunity of making a publike Declaration of our earnest affection to all our brethren of that Nation, and especially your selves of the Reverend Assembly at *Westminster*. When we were lately in a very low condition, we may say that our own sufferings and fears, although imbittered with the sense of the Lords displeasure against our lukewarmnesse and unfaithfulness; yet they did not so take up our heart, but that room was left to congratulate with the Lords people there in all their successes, and to condole with them in all their dangers; And if at any time any here seemed to be more jealous then godly jealousy would allow, we know not how it can be imputed to any thing else, but to the vehemencie of ardent affection, and impatient desire to have our brethren there and us joyned neerer to Christ, and neerer to one another in all his Ordinances; and especially in Presbyteriall Government, so well warranted by the Word, and approven by experience of our owne and other reformed Churches; Wherein your long and unwearied endeavours have been blessed with a large increase, which yet hath proved still a seed unto a further and more glorious expected harvest. There  
could

could not be wished by mortall men a fairer opportunity then is cast in your laps, being invited and charged by so high an authority, to give so free and publike a testimony to those truths, which formerly many of the Lords precious ones by tongue and pen, by tears and blood have more privately asserted; The smallest of Christs truths (if it be lawfull to call any of them small) is of greater moment, then all the other busineses that ever have been debated since the beginning of the world to this day; But the highest of honours and heaviest of burdens is put upon you, to declare out of the sacred records of Divine Truth, what is the prerogative of the Crown and extent of the Scepter of Jesus Christ, what bounds are to be set between Him ruling in his House, and powers established by God on Earth, how and by whom his House is to be governed, and by what wayes a restraint is to be put on these who would pervert his Truth, and subvert the faith of many. No doubt mountains of oppositions arise, and gools of difficulties open up themselves in this your way; But you have found it is God that girdeth you with strength and maketh your way perfect and plain before you, who hath delivered, and doth deliver, and will yet deliver. We need not put you in minde that as there lyeth at this time a strict tye on all, so in a speciall manner both you and we are ingaged to interpose our selves between God and these Kingdomes, between the two Nations, between the King and the People, for averting of deserved wrath, for continuing and increasing of a well grounded Union, for procuring as far as in us lyeth a right settling of Religion and Church-Government; That when we shall sleep with our fathers, the Posterity here and abroad may be reaping the fruits of our labours.


We are fully assured of your constant and sedulous promoting of this blessed Work, and of the Lords assisting and carrying you on therein: And are confident that your late experience and present sense of the great danger and fearfull confusion flowing from the rise and growth of Sects and Sectaries not suppressed, hath stirred up in your hearts most fervent desires, and carefull endeavours for remedying the same, wherein we exhort you to continue and abound; knowing that your labours shall not be in vain in the Lord, to whose rich grace we commend you, and the work in your hands.

*Edinburgh 18 Junii 1646.*

Subscribed in name of the  
Generall Assembly by  
the Moderator.

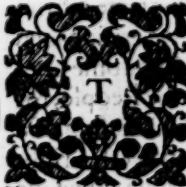



*Recommendation to Presbyteries and  
Provinciall Assemblies.*

1.  He Assembly recommends to severall Presbyteries and Provinciall Assemblies, to consider the interetts of particular congregations, in the calling and admission of Ministers, with all these questions that usually fall out upon that occasion; And to report their opinions to the next Assembly, with some fit Overtures for preventing all contests in that matter.

2. The Assembly recommends to Presbyteries and Provinciall Assemblies to consider all the matters referred by preceding Assemblies to the consideration of Presbyteries, And to report their opinions therein to the next Assembly.

*Act for a publike Fast before the next  
Assembly.*

 He Assembly having considered an Act of the Assembly 1644. *Sess. ult.* enioyning a publike Fast to be kept in all the Kirks of the City where the General Assembly holds upon the first day of the meeting of the Assembly; And finding some inconveniencies therein, Therefore at this time untill the matter be further considered, Appoints a publike Fast and Humiliation for the Lords blessing to the meeting of the next Assembly, to be universally observed in all the congregations of this Kirk upon the Sabbath next except one preceding the said next Assembly, The exercises for the members of the Assembly at their first meeting, Being still observed according to the ancient and laudable practise of this Kirk, This appointment notwithstanding.

 He Assembly appoints the meeting of the next Generall Assembly to be at Edinburgh upon the first Wednesday of August 1647.



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